

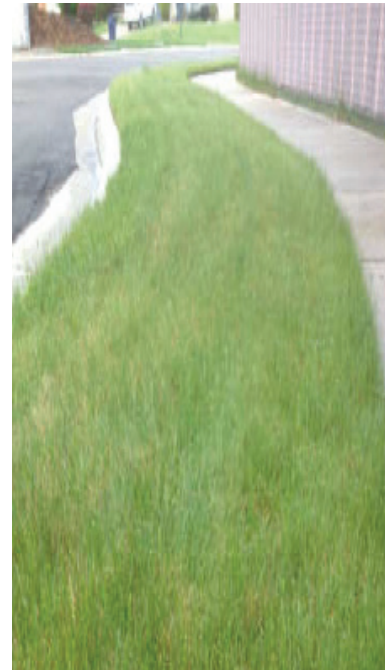


Parkstrips 101

What Every Sandy City Resident Should Know

What is a parkstrip?

The City ordinance defines it as: “The landscape area within a public right-of-way located between the back of the street curb and the sidewalk, or, in the absence of a sidewalk, located between the back of the street curb and the property line.”



Who owns the parkstrip?

Generally, the City owns the parkstrip. Usually, it is part of the public right-of-way that includes the street, sidewalk, curb and gutter. If you have a question as to the ownership of the parkstrip in front of your home or business, contact the [Community Development Department at 801-568-7256](#) for assistance.

Is it my responsibility to maintain the parkstrip in front of my home or business?

Yes. City ordinance states, “parkstrip maintenance shall be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Proper maintenance shall include the removal of all weeds (regardless of height) and debris. Adjacent property owners are required to landscape and beautify the parkstrip with approved streetscape materials.”



Parkstrips 101

Appropriate Parkstrip Landscaping



Lawn

Lawn is easily mowed/maintained yet is inefficient due to overspray and wasted run-off water.



Low-growing Shrubs & Mulch/Stone

Short profile shrubs mixed with permeable weed barriers like pebbles, stone and mulches work well.



Xeriscaping (provision for native and drought-tolerant plant materials)

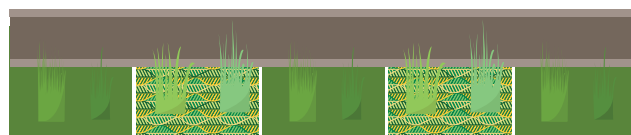
Zeroscaping with stone/gravel only is discouraged in parkstrips and should be xeriscaped instead.

Note: placed rocks can be no taller than 3 feet.

Living Surfaces:

While these might be a little more difficult to maintain, they offer these advantages:

- 1) More attractive than a mass of hard surface.
- 2) Extensive hard surface intensifies the “urban heat island” effect, where such surfaces absorb sunlight and hold in heat longer.
- 3) Permeable plant and mulch materials allow rainwater and snowmelt to seep into ground rather than funneling into storm drains, thus improving water quality for residents.



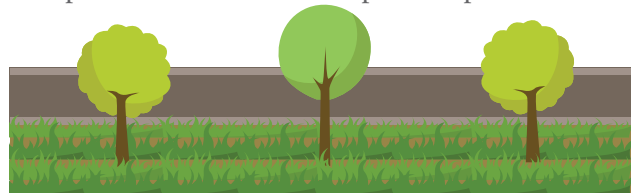
Grasses & Drought-tolerant Plants

Select waterwise decorative grasses/plants **no taller than 3 feet**. Consider hardy varieties capable of withstanding dry spells, snow piles and road salts.



Solid & Hard Surfaces

Solid surfaces like pavers/stamped concrete should comprise **50% or less** of the park strip area.



Parkstrip Trees

See [page 3](#) for a list of acceptable and unacceptable trees recommended for parkstrips.



Parkstrips 101

Parkstrip Trees

Acceptable:

Maples (Acer)

Norway Maple (Platanoides):

- Columnar—Fairly narrow growth habit
- Crimson King—Purple foliage all year round
- Crimson sentry—Purple foliage, narrow and dense habit
- Deborah—Faster growing than most Maples, deep bronze-green leaves
- Emerald Queen—Widely used Norway cultivar
- Parkway—Similar to Emerald Queen, but narrower growth habit
- Royal Red—Deeper red than Crimson King
- Hedge Maple (Campestre)—Round headed Maple to 30' height
- Red Maple (Rubrum):
 - October Glory—Brilliant fall color, round headed to 30' height
 - Red Sunset—Beautiful orange to red fall color, oval crown to 45' height
 - Scarlet Sentinel—Narrow growth, yellow-orange fall color
 - Autumn Blaze—Larger of Rubrum cultivars, brilliant red-orange fall color

Horsechestnut (Aesculus)

Oak (Quercus)

Red Oak (Quercus Rubra)

Crimson Spire (Quercus Robur)

Linden (Tilia)

Little Leaf Linden (Tilia Cordata)

Redmond Linden (Tilia Americana)

Crimean Linden (Tilia Euchlora)

Common Hackberry (Celtis Occidentalis)

Japanese Zelkova (Zelkova Serrata)

Umbrella Tree (Catalpa)

Modesto Ash (Fraxinus Velutina)

Goldenrain Tree (Koeleruteria Paniculata)

Goldenchain Tree (Laburnum Watereri)

Chinese Elm (Ulmus Parvifolia) Don't confused with Siberian Elm, a Utah neo-native

Flowering Pear (Pyrus Callerna):

- Aristocrat—Larger of Calleryana pears, reddish-purple fall color
- Bradford—Most widely used of flowering pears, red fall color
- Capital—Narrow habit, reddish-purple fall color
- Chanticleer—Columnar habit, orange to red fall color
- Redspire—More profuse spring flowering, one of most hardy pears

Crabapple (Malus):

- Radiant (pink flower)
- Prairie Fire (pink flower)
- Snow in Spring (white flower)
- Snowdrift (white flower)

Hawthorn (Crataegus Lavalley)

Kwanzan Cherry (Prunus Serrulata)

Honey Locust (Gleditsia Tricanthos):

- Imperial Graceful rounded variety to 35'
- Shademaster Straight, strong trunk, dark green foliage to 45'
- Skyline Pyramidal form, larger of honey locust species
- Sunburst Bright golden foliage on tips of branches to 40'

Kentucky Coffee Tree (Gymnocladus)—Leaves resembles Honeylocust

European Mt. Ash (Sorbus Acuparia)—Clusters of bright orange berries height



Unacceptable:

Silver Maple (Acer Saccharinum) Large surface roots guaranteed to raise or crack concrete

London Plane Tree (Platanus) Large surface roots, tree becomes too large for park strip

Siberian Elm (Ulmus Pumilla) Large surface roots, readily volunteers, messy tree

Cottonwood (Populus Fremonti) Large surface roots, guaranteed to raise or crack concrete

Poplar (Populus) Large surface roots, tree becomes too big for park strip

Russian Olive (Elaeagnaceae Angustifolia) Profuse suckering, messy tree, long sharp thorns

Willow (Salix) Any variety Weak branch structure, falls apart easily

Quaking Aspen (Populus Tremloides) Weak branching, prone to many disease & insect problems

American Elm (Ulmus Americana) Prone to Dutch Elm Disease

Black Locust (Robinia Pseudoacaia) Large seed pods make for messy tree, poor branch structure

Box Elder (Acer Negundo) Large surface roots, suckers profusely

Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus) Large surface roots, suckers profusely

Idaho Locust (Robinia x Ambigua) Prone to borers & other health problems, suckers profusely

Birch (Betula) Any variety Prone to borers, large majority of trees die in our climate

Horse Chestnut (Aesculus) Large Tree, fruits can be a problem

Flowering Plum (Prunus Cerasifera) Growth habit to wide for park strip, suckers profusely when pruned, hard to keep correctly pruned.

Conifers - many are listed Evergreens generally get to large in girth for parkstrips

- Colorado Blue Spruce, Austrian Pine,
- Ponderosa Pine, Pinyon Pine, Mugo Pine,
- White Fir, Douglas Fir, Sub Alpine Fir,
- Upright Junipers.



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Appropriate Parkstrip Landscaping

Hard Surfaces:

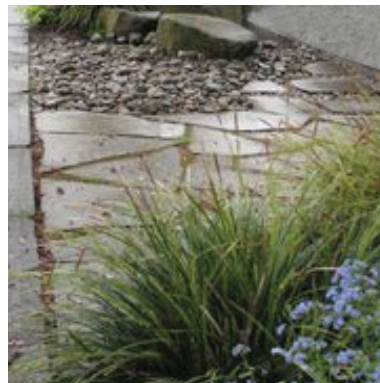
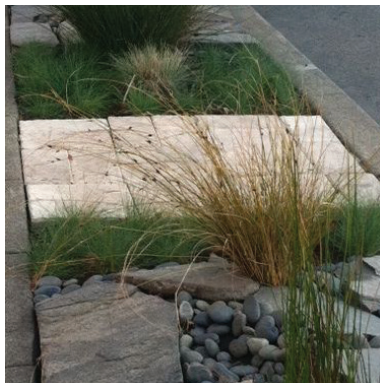
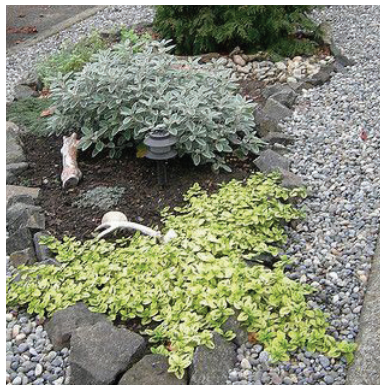
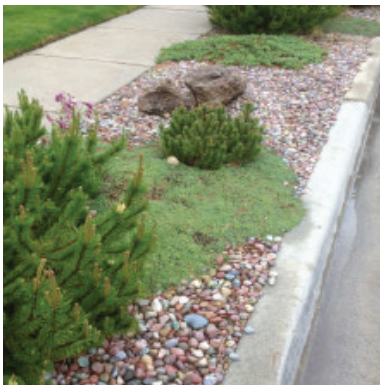
According to the ordinance, *“it is preferable to have no more than 50 percent of the parkstrip area covered in hard surface material. Hard surface sections should alternate with planted sections and be complimentary to the surrounding landscape.”*

Suggestions for hard surface coverage include:

- 1) Use of decorative or stamped concrete or block pavers are preferred over plain concrete.
- 2) Installation of gravel, cobble or other stones.



Encouraged



Discouraged





PARKSTRIP TIP

GET A PERMIT: Under certain circumstances such as pouring concrete, a permit will be required from the Public Works Department. Confirm requirements before beginning any work. *Contact Blue Stakes before you do any digging.*



SNEAK PEAK: SIX-PART SERIES

- 1 The Roles of Land Use Authorities Explained
(City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Community Development Director)
- 2 What is Zoning and How Does It Apply to Me?
- 3 Requirements to Develop or Subdivide a Property
- 4 All About Conditional Uses
- 5 What Every Sandy City Resident Should Know (PARKSTRIPS)
- 6 Becoming Involved in Land Use Policy Development and Decisions